

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 281435Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6429  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

S E C R E T NAIROBI 2606

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UG, US  
SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA

REF: (A) STATE 041132, (B) STATE 042638

1. I MET ALONE WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT STATE HOUSE NAKURU AT 1000 FEBRUARY 28. HE FITTED ME INTO HIS FULL MORNING SCHEDULE, WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MWAMUNGA, CHAIRMAN OF GEMA MR. KARUME, AND NEW MAYOR OF NAIROBI MR. NGUMBA ALL WAITING TO SEE HIM AFTER ME. PRESIDENT KENYATTA WAS IN EXTREMELY GOOD FORM AND HUMOR, DRESSED CASUALLY IN BRIGHT COLORED SPORTS SHIRT. I INDICATED PURPOSE OF MY VISIT AS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EAST AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND NOT ANY ONE SPECIFIC SUBJECT.

2. I OPENED WITH UGANDA, EMPHASIZING U.S. CONCERN FOR SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF AMERICANS. I THANKED KENYATTA FOR COOPERATION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ASSISTING US RE PREPARATIONS FOR POSSIBILITY OF AMERICANS LEAVING UGANDA BY LAND AFTER PROSPECTIVE 0800 MARCH 1 SESSION WITH AMIN, AND NOTIFICATION BY MINISTRY OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER FOR WESTERN PROVINCE. I SAID WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT AMIN WAS UP TO, AND ASKED KENYATTA WHAT HIS REACTION

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WAS TO PRESENT SITUATION IN UGANDA AND AMIN'S ACTIONS. KENYATTA HAD NO SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION TO RECOMMEND, BUT ANALYZED THAT AMIN BACKS DOWN WHEN CONFRONTED -- AS IN CASE WITH KENYA LAST YEAR, BUT OTHERWISE WILL CARRY HIS SHOWMANSHIP AS FAR AS HE CAN (SEE COMMENT PARA THREE). KENYATTA ADDED THAT HE TAKES NOTHING AMIN DOES AT FACE VALUE. AMIN MIGHT STILL LAUNCH SOME BELLIGERENT ACTION

AGAINST KENYA: "KENYA WILL DEFEND HERSELF IF HE DOES SOME FUNNY THING." KENYATTA SAW SAD HUMOR IN AMIN'S MOST CURRENT STATEMENT THAT U.S. PLANS ON ATTACKING UGANDA.

3. COMMENT: IMPLICATION OF KENYATTA'S ANALYSIS OF AMIN SEEMS TO BE THAT WE SHOULD NOT GO TOO FAR TO HUMOR HIM, SINCE THIS ENCOURAGES HIM TO RAISE HIS DEMANDS.

4. WHILE READY TO DEFEND ITSELF, KENYA AT THE SAME TIME DEPENDS ON ITS FRIENDS. "WE DEPEND ON YOU," KENYATTA TOLD ME, "IF WE ARE ATTACKED BY AMIN, OR" HE ADDED RELECTIVELY, "ANYONE ELSE."

5. THIS LED ME TO INTRODUCE SUBJECT OF TANZANIA WHICH KENYATTA WAS EAGER TO TALK ABOUT. HE DECLARED THAT KENYA DID NOT WANT TO RESPOND WITH ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT AGGRAVATE SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, HE REJECTED SENDING KENYAN TROOPS TO TANZANIAN BORDER IN REACTION TO TANZANIAN TROOPS ON KENYAN BORDER. "THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A PLAN TO ATTACK KENYA." "BUT ONE CAN NEVER TELL," HE ADDED. KENYATTA REFERRED TO HIS RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION "TWO WEEKS AGO" WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE AS A SATISFACTORY ONE. "HE (NYERERE) SEEMED FRIENDLY." SEEKING AN EXPLANATION TO THE ANTAGONISTIC MOVES BY TANZANIA, KENYATTA BELIEVES "THEY TRIED TO FRIGHTEN US, OR SHOW OFF, IF I MAY SAY SO." KENYATTA DOES NOT SEE A FIRM MOVE BY TANZANIA TO A SOUTHERN AXIS. HE OPTIMISTICALLY BELIEVES THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA AND KENYA ARE FRIENDS AND THIS SHOULD GUIDE TANGOV TO FIND A SOLUTION TO REESTABLISH GOOD

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RELATIONS. THERE IS STILL EVEN HOPE FOR SOME EAC RELATIONSHIP. "BASICALLY NYERERE WANTS IT." TANZANIANS MIS-LEADING THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THAT KENYA CAUSED THE CRUMBLING OF THE EAST AFRICAN AIRWAYS. WHILE KENYATTA BELIEVES INTERNAL POLITICAL FORCES MAY HAVE PUSHED NYERERE INTO DOING THINGS HE DOES NOT WISH TO DO, KENYATTA REITERATED HIS FAITH IN THE PEOPLE: "TROUBLE IS HARMFUL TO THE PEOPLE. QUARREL IS HARMFUL." THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE, HE STATED. HE OBSERVED THAT THE TANZANIANS WERE COMING ACROSS THE KENYAN BORDER TO BUY FOOD EVEN NOW. (COMMENT: THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION OF TANZANIA, KENYATTA SPOKE IN CALM, REASONING TONE WITH AFFECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF TANZANIA, AND HOPE FOR FUTURE GOOD RELATIONS.)

6. I PRESENTED TO KENYATTA MOUNTED MODELS OF AN F-5E AND F-5F, NOTING MODELS' CAMOUFLAGE EXACTLY PER GOK SPECIFICATION, AND POINTED TO MISSILES, COMMUNICATIONS

EQUIPMENT. PRESIDENT DELIGHTED WITH GIFT. HE ASKED WHETHER AN F-5 VISIT TO KENYA COULD BE ARRANGED SO THAT HE COULD SHOW HIS MINISTERS WHAT KENYA WOULD BE GETTING, BUT I PARRIED THIS REQUEST BY SAYING I BELIEVED PRESENT TIME WAS NOT RIGHT AND WOULD MOST CERTAINLY BE MISCONSTRUED.

7. TOUCHING BRIEFLY ON SOME OTHER SUBJECTS: KENYATTA BELIEVES "ETHIOPIA IS MORE WITH US THAN EVER," BUT I DISCOVERED HE LACKED FULLY CURRENT INFORMATION ON MENGISTU AND HIS PROBLEMS. WE TOUCHED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND I COMPLIMENTED MINISTER MWAMUNGA FOR HIS EXCELLENT JOB IN ORGANIZING BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL'S ROUNDTABLE TO TAKE PLACE IN NAIROBI NEXT WEEK. I ALSO SAID WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH AMBASSADOR MBOGUA, NOTING HE WAS DEPARTING TODAY FOR WASHINGTON. WE DISCUSSED SEVERAL OTHER SUBJECTS BEFORE A VERY FRIENDLY FAREWELL.  
MARSHALL

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